

How Would a Governance Change Affect GARBAGE AND RECYCLING SERVICE?

What Happens Today With Garbage and Recycling Service?

Each household is different. Residents and businesses have the option of paying for garbage and recycling services, or they may haul their own materials to a King County Transfer Station. Curbside collection services are available in unincorporated King County, but collection by a hauling company is not required in unincorporated areas, or in cities that do not have mandatory collection services.

Garbage collection in unincorporated areas of the State is provided by private solid waste companies that hold the hauling Certificate for a particular area, and King County Solid Waste Division sets rates for transfer and disposal of materials. In unincorporated areas of the State, (and in cities that do not contract for collection services), the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regulates rates of private solid waste haulers. Residents of Fairwood PAA would pay the following collection rates listed below, today, depending on their approach to disposing of solid waste:

If residents haul their own garbage and recycling material to transfer stations periodically, the minimum charge for disposal at each visit is \$15.25, or \$88.17 per ton, with additional fees for certain recyclables (such as appliances with refrigerants). King County Solid Waste has 8 transfer stations and 2 drop boxes in King County; the nearest sites are in Enumclaw and Renton.

Some households purchase curbside collection from Waste Management once a month. A typical household of up to four people usually uses one 32-gallon garbage cart at a cost of \$11.90 per month, which totals to \$143 per year.

Other households purchase weekly garbage and recycling collection. One 35-gallon garbage cart collected weekly costs \$19.05 per month, which totals to \$229 per year.

In both cases, recycling collection every other week is included in garbage collection charges.

Curbside yard waste service is also available weekly March through November, every other week December through February for an additional monthly cost of \$9.00.

What Would Change About Our Service if the Area Annexed to Renton?

Nothing would change for seven years. Renton generally requires all of its citizens to have a mandatory garbage, recycling and yard waste collection services at a fee paid by residents. However, any part of an unincorporated area served by a private hauler (such as Allied Waste) would not be subject to the mandatory provision, and the existing hauler in the area would continue to provide service, for a period “not less than 7 years.” What this means is that the hauler holding the Certificate for the area would continue to provide service to all customers who opt for curbside collection, and a seven-year grace period would apply after a change in governance before residents would be required to sign up for garbage collection. Therefore, the

City of Renton would not initiate mandatory service until the seven-year grace period is over and customers come under the contract.

The City of Renton's rates are generally lower than those in unincorporated King County for combined garbage, collection and yard waste collection. However, if residents are not currently paying for garbage service, these collection fees would represent a new cost to some households. Differences in collection rates are listed in the table below.

What Would Change About Our Service if Fairwood becomes a city?

Nothing would change for seven years. The current hauler would continue to provide services, and charge rates, as is currently the case. Rates may be amended from time to time by the State Utilities and Transportation Commission. Collection of garbage would not be mandatory. However, a utility tax could be imposed by the city on the service.

After seven years, the new city could choose a different garbage collection service provider if it wanted to, and could also choose whether to require mandatory collection of garbage.

How Do Solid Waste, Recycling and Yard Waste Fees Compare?

The table below gives a comparison of one example of a household with a 32-gallon garbage can, receiving recycling service and yard waste.

Waste Collection Service	King County	City of Renton
One 32-gal Garbage Cart – Collection	\$18.05	\$13.44
Frequency of Collection:	Weekly	Weekly
All-in-One Recycling Cart – Collection	Included in rate above	Included in rate above
Frequency of Collection:	Biweekly	Weekly
64-gal Yard Waste Cart – Collection	\$9.00	<i>Included in rate above</i>
Frequency of Collection:	<i>Weekly in summer, bi-weekly in winter</i>	<i>Weekly</i>
<i>Total Monthly Charges</i>	<i>\$27.05</i>	<i>\$13.44</i>
<i>Annual Cost</i>	<i>\$324.60</i>	<i>\$161.28</i>

Where Can I Learn More?

King County Solid Waste Division: 206-296-4466 (information line) or

<http://www.metrokc.gov/dnrp/swd/garbage-recycling/index.asp>

City of Renton Public Works: 425-430-7201 (information line), or

www.ci.renton.wa.us/pw/utility/collserv.htm

City of Renton Utility Billing: 425-430-6852